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Newsplug

NEWSPLUG

Supporting the Plus4 and C16 computers

Welcome

Welcome to issue 73 of Newsplug, the journal of Plus4 and C16 computing. This issue will have a strong bias to those things the C16/+4 computers do well such as colour graphic effects and easy bitmap graphics programming.

colour graphic effects and easy bitmap graphics programming.

Just a few words about myself now. I bought my trusty Cl6 back in 1985 (my first
computer), and recently purchased a Plus4 from Korella Trading. Even though I
now own other machines as well, I still use the Cl6 and Plus4 machines when the
opportunity arises. The Plus4 remains one of the most user-friendly home
computers ever made.

Publications

At least two U.S. publications supporting the Plus4 are available. Cee-64 Alive (soon to be renamed 'Commodore S-bit machines. Although mainly a C641/28 disk mag it intends to increase its already large Plus4 coverage over the coming months, including an occasional "Plus4 only" disk.

double sided disks per issue, six issues per year and is produced under licence in Australia by Commodore Network. A yearly subscription costs AU\$35. The sample disk costs AU\$4. Send cheque or Postal money orders to: Commodore Network 9 Wadeson St. Cobram VIC 3644

DieHard is the other Commodore 8-bit publication which supports the Plus4. It's a newstand magazine, and one issue, celebrating the plus4's birthday, featured the machine on their front cover. All subscription enquiries should be directed to:

dieHard P.O. Box 392

Boise, ID 83701-0392 United States of America

Issue #78, March 1995

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*33) PUDI**
From the book "Commodore 18/Plus4 Companion.

10 GRAPHIC 3.::COLOR 3.2.7

20 A = 80::B = A^A::C = 100:D = 100

30 FOR X = 0 TO A

30 FOR X = 0 TO A

50 P = SQR(B - S)

60 i = P

70 R = SQR(B - S)

60 Q = (R-1) * SIX(24*)

Continued on Page 2
```

Soft are Sources There uill a number of Phus4

and C16 pliers. Korella Trading, a op in Belmont, New South Comput run by a Plus4 enthusiast Wales. who ensures there is always plenty of software and hardware available. On my last visit to Korella I managed to pick up some old British club newsletters, parts of which I'll reproduce in Newsplug. I also bought a tape to disk copier, so can now offer a service to those who want to put their copy-protected tape games onto disk. Korella has a number of refurbished Plus4s and power supplies available, several dozen games titles as well as some excellent serious programs, including three or four boxed, almost Script/Plus cartridge-based wordprocessors. In addition to software and hardware the shop also offers a repair service. I'll endeavour to print Korella's Plus4/C16 catalogue next issue. Korella has probably the largest (and probably the ONLY) range of Plus4 hardware and software in Australia and can be contacted on (049) 45 8455. The shop also supports the C64 in a BIG way, as well as the

VIC-20 (!), Atari 2600, 7800, XL/XE,

ST. Amiga, CD-32, IBM PC and the Nintendo game systems.

Looking overseas now, there are a number of British firms still selling software.

Ultra Software

Fulling Mill. Broughton, Banbury, Oxon OX15 6AP

Advertises the following C16/Plus4 games- Beach head, Championship Wrestling. Classics 3. Football

"Korella has probably the largest range of Plus4 hardware and software in Australia*

manager. Gold (2 games pack), Harbour Attack, Ikari Warriors and Skyhawk.

DTBS 18 Norwich Ave. Rochdale, Lancs,

OL11 5.17 Phone/Fax: 0706 715 028

Has a range of good C16/Plus4 commercial software.

Capri Marketing (Trading under the

name "Computer Cavern") 9 Dean St, Marlow, Bucks, SL7 3AA

Tel: 0628 891 101

This is a chain of specialist computer shops which specialise in software for the less popular computers such as the C16/Plus 4, VIC 20, Oric, TRS-80. ZX80 and ZX81. MSX-series, ZX Spectrum, Sinclair QL, Commodore PET, and just about every other orphaned computer in

existance. Don't forget those other sources of hardware and software such as garage sales and used equipment stores such as Cash Convertors. C16s, and to a lesser extent Plus4s, sold well here in Australia, and there must be a lot of (sadly) unwanted systems lying around. Try contacting the various distributors and warehouses, as sometimes old stock gets deleted from an inventory but remains in the warehouse. A good example of this happening is where just a few months ago a number of brand new, still boxed. Commodore PETs were discovered in a Queensland warehouse, they had been overlooked

for nearly fifteen years! Another

potential source of old computer systems is your local land fill tip. where many computers considered obsolete and therefore of no commercial value end up. As it's illegal to do private salvaging at tips, you should contact the licenced salvagers (your local council can help) and ask if

"...Commodore PFTs were discovered in a Queensland warehouse"

they can keep an eye out for computer related material. About one year ago a local business dumped a dozen fully working PET systems (including 4040 drives) at our local tip. Sadly they were ploughed under before they could be rescued



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```
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90 Y = 1/3 + Q+D
100 IF I = -P THEN M = Y:GOTO 130
110 IF Y>M THEN M = Y:GOTO 140
120 IF Y>=N THEN GOTO 170
130 N = Y
140 Y = C + Y
150 DRAW 3.A + X.Y
160 DRAW 3.A - X.Y
170 I = I + 4
180 IF I SP THEN 70
190 NEXT X
200 FOR C = 2 TO 15:FOR I = 0 TO 7:COLOR 3.C.I
210 FOR M = 0 TO 500: NEXT M. I.C
220 GOTO 200
```

"STRING PATTERN" From the book "100 Programs for the C16" 10 REM STRING PATTERN 20 REM *********** 30 RFM 40 COLOR 0.1: REM BLACK SCREEN 50 COLOR 1,4,5:REM CYAN INK 60 COLOR 4,1:REM BLACK BORDER

80 FOR N = 0 TO 3 Continued on page 4

90: 00

Book Reviews

There ave been many books produced or the Plus4 and C16. Among better titles are the ones from Merbourne House and Sunshine Books. These include "C16 machine Language for the Absolute Beginner". "Commodore 16 Exposed", C16 Games Book". "Commodore 16 Sound & Graphics", "6502 Reference Guide", and "The Commodore Plus4/C16 Companion". Another excellent book is "100 Programs for the Commodore 16" published by Prentice-Hall. There is one book though I'd recommend steering well clear of unless it's free, and that's Commodore's official "Plus4 & C16 Programmers' Reference Guide". This thin, ringbound collection of photocopied notes looks rushed., as if it was done in a hurry by a Commodore employee during his lunch break. Most of the "book" contains

padding such as ascii/screencode tables. explanation of BASIC commands and math conversion tables. On the bright side, the book does contain schematics of both machines. and the chapter on machine code has a full explanation of the built-in machine

code monitor, as well as a useful

Blatant plug (pun intended) alert! If you also use a C64 or C128 then why not subscribe to Australia's premier 64/128 magazine "Commodore Network". Contact Warren Naismith at 9 Wadeson St. Cobram. VIC 3644

memory map. Anyone wanting a decent Reference Guide would be well advised to hunt down a copy of Anco's excellent unofficial "C16/Plus4 Reference Guide".

When I bought Sunshine Books' "C16/Plus4 Companion" inside it was a copy of Sunshine's original press release. Somewhere in this issue there'll be a reproduction of it.

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```
SCNCLR
 100 -
          IF N=1 OR N=3 THEN MS="END":ELSE MS="START"
. 110:
         PRINT MS" POINT OF LINE"; 1+INT(N/2)
 120:
          INPUT "X-COORDINATE (0 TO 319)"; X%(N)
 130 -
       LOOP UNTIL X%(N)>-1 AND X%(N)<320
 150:
       REM.....
 160:
 170 .
         SCNCLR
 180:
          PRINT MS" POINT OF LINE": 1+INT(N/2)
          INPUT "Y-COORDINATE (0 TO 199)":%(N)
      LOOP UNTIL Y%(N)>-1 AND Y%(N)<200
210 NEXT
```

Continued on page 5

Plus4 Activity Sheet

There are many ways to keep your Plus4 or C16 from gathering dust in the cupboard. 1. Use it as an almost portable

wordprocessing system. Replace the 3+1 ROM with a Script/Plus ROM, get hold of a decent centronics printer interface and a cheap portable printer (Canon bubbly-iet?). If you cannot obtain an interface that draws its power from printer, such as Micrographics MW-350, then use a standard C64/128 interface that gets power from the cassette port's 5-volt line (such as the Xetec Super Grafix) in conjunction with a C16 to C64 cassette plug adaptor. Most (but not all) printers supply a 5-volt output from pin 18 so a hardware hack with the Super Graphix shouldn't be too difficult. Include a small, light drive such as the 1541 MkII or 1581, or better still, an FD-4000. Finally, stick the whole lot into a suitcase next time you go on holidays or a business trip, and hook it up to the nearest telly when you need to type up a few pages. 2. Have fun programming in

BASIC. BASIC V3.5 is one of the best BASICs available. Unlike the C64, it's easy to write 3-D routines for the Plus4, as well as advanced text and string manipulation. Every now and then just set yourself a target, and go for it! Recreational

programming can be fun. 3. Be proud to be a member of a proud, dogmatic minority. Millions of people around the world belong to minority groups, and now is YOUR chance, Minority groups enjoy lobbying parliament for changes to help their causes, so why not have some fun blockading Parliament House in Canberra like the loggers did last month, but don't park a truck on the road, use a Plus4. Another advantage of being in a minority group such as us Plus4 users are, is the ability to make up amazing slogans and poems at the drop of a hat, as well as pretty cool face-paintings, yes, the Plus4 can bring out the artist in us all. The media has always been kind to minority groups, especially those who are downtrodden, sneered at, and thought of as an anachronism by the general populace, and what

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```
220 DO
230
     SCNCLR
     INPUT "NUMBER OF POINTS PER LINE"; K%
250 LOOP UNTIL K%>0
270 REM PREVENT DIVISION BY ZERO
280 IF X%(0)=X%(1) THEN X%(1)=X%(1)+1
290 IF X%(2)=X%(3) THEN X%(3)=X%(3)+1
```

Continued on page 6

than

media

TELEVISION, in particular, SBS

TV. Phone up SBS' Special Projects manager and give her a

sob-story, straight from the heart, about the terror and indignity us pluggers suffer at the hands of

arrogant PC owners, the rejection

at the hands of greedy software producers, and the laughter from

ill-advised Mac-owning upstarts. Do

this and you're guaranteed to have a badly produced five minute film of

Plus4 inspired street theatre

appearing at 2am on Monday

mornings every week for the next

jewellery business. Plus4s have an

abundance of ferrite beads

dustered around the I/O ports, and

these unusual objects would make

a rather fetching necklace or

bracelet, in addition to giving the

wearer immunity to cancer-causing

I hope you enjoyed this, but

I'm tired and 'Star Trek: Deep

Space Nine' has started. Hope I

superhuman strength.

electromagnetic radiation,

4. Get into the home-made

two years.

almost

Probably.

is there

POESE DELEASE

Title: Commodore Ciarlins 4 Companion

Author: Frian Lloyd

Publication Date: 5 December Price:65.95 net 150N:0 9464-9 64 5

Selling Foints: . First introductory book on these new machiness . Compagne predict 200,000 sales of the C14 by Christmas

. Extensive Commodore ad Lampings already mider may IEG million ..

. Helpful and sympathetic style, for the sumpliete beginner to specuting

The Book: Inch book has been written with the complete beginner in and. It is designed to be a combined manual and beginner a the author tales great care not to assume any previous impaledge

un the part of the reader. Commands are introduced in such a may that you can start programming almost immediately, and their iss to allestrated with included enumply programs. We your themstedge of programming increasing the more complicating commands are introduced. By the end of the book you should be proficient in the more registaticated programming techniques such as dist filehandling and high resolution praphics.

This book follows the well-tried methods of teaching BASIC that have made briss : Loyd's previous hook, the Gragon Trainer, buth a SUCCESS. Contents:

The Author: Briss Linya to the author of the Fragon Tribine. He time his den summiter club.

didn't offend anyone with those last two points. Bye.



You've now come to the end of this issue. Due to time pressures I cannot produce Newsplug every month, so Newsplug will come out every two or three months. Next issue will hopefully have some articles on new German hardware and software, and perhaps some 3 dimensional vector mutines to try out.

Please let me know if there are any other computers that you'd like to see covered, such as the C128, Amiga or PC, and I'll see what I can do.

Newsplug was created using a RAM expanded C64 equipped geoPublish and geoWrite, and printed on a Canon Bubble Jet printer.

Issue =78. March 1995

310 REM CALCULATE PARAMETERS 320 D1 = (X%(1)-X%(0)) / K%

330 D2 = (X%(3)-X%(2)) / K% 340 M1 = (Y%(1) - Y%(0)) / (X%(1) - X%(0))350 M2 = (Y%(3)-Y%(2)) / (X%(3)-X%(2))

360 B1 = Y%(0) - M1*X%(0) 370 B2 = Y%(2) - M2*X%(2) 380 REM

Continued on page 7

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390 REM DRAW PATTERN 400 GRAPHIC 1.1 410 DRAW 1, X%(0), Y%(0) TO X%(1), Y%(1) 420 DRAW 1, X%(2), Y%(2) TO X%(3), Y%(3) 430 FOR N = 1 TO K% 440 : R1 " X%(0) + N*D1 : S1 = M1 * (X%(0)+N*D1)+B1 460 : R2 = X3(3) - N*D2 470 : S2 = M2 * (X%(3)-N*D2)+B2 480 : DRAW 1.R1.S1 TO R2.S2 490 NEXT 500 GETKEY AS : REM ANY KEY TO END 510 GRAPHIC CLR 520 SCNCLR

530 END